

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-38 are presently pending in this case. Claims 20 and 21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment and new Claims 22-38 are added by the present amendment. As new Claims 22-38 are supported by the original claims and specification,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 20 is objected to; Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Beach et al. (European Patent Application No. 0 856 812, hereinafter "Beach") in view of McGregor et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030100290, hereinafter "McGregor"); and Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Beach in view of McGregor and further in view of Larsson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040196784, hereinafter "Larsson").

Claims 20 and 21 are canceled making the present objection and rejections on the merits moot.

To the extent the cited references are relevant to new Claims 22-38, the following comments are provided for the Examiner's consideration.

The invention recited in Claims 22-38 aims at shortening the processing time required for the procedure of a Bluetooth terminal search phase. This issue is especially pressing when a number of customers are lined up for paying at a Bluetooth master, such as a cash register apparatus, and a plurality of handheld communication terminals of the customers are present as the slaves of the Bluetooth master. In such a situation the master cannot specify which of the handheld communication terminals the master should be connected to next, even if the order of the customers is determined in advance. Thus, in order to reduce the time

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 18, line 21 to page 19, line 27.

required to search for a handheld communication terminal to which the master should be connected and shorten the time required to acquire terminal identification information of the handheld communication terminal, a means other than the procedure of the Bluetooth terminal search phase is needed. Thus, the invention recited in Claims 22-38 provides such an alternative connection procedure.

After the master acquires the terminal identification information, it establishes a connection with the handheld communication terminal and exchanges information therewith in accordance with a Bluetooth procedure that follows the procedure of the above terminal search phase. The Bluetooth master does not search for a handheld communication terminal on standby, but can perform reliable communications with a slave to which the master should be connected. Consequently, a significant advantage of greatly shortening the processing time required to acquire terminal identification information used for Bluetooth communication can be brought about. This advantage cannot be obtained from any of the cited references.

New Claim 22 recites in part “an acquisition device configured to acquire terminal identification information of the handheld communication terminal *by reading a barcode on the handheld communication terminal instead of executing a procedure of a Bluetooth terminal search phase* to acquire the terminal identification information.”

In contrast, Beach does not describe or suggest the above-described characteristic features and advantages of the invention recited in Claim 22. In fact, Beach does not disclose *any* means other than the procedure of the Bluetooth terminal search phase to acquire terminal identification information from a Bluetooth slave handheld communication terminal when the Bluetooth master performs communications with the slave handheld communication terminal. In Beach, therefore, the time required until the master acquires the terminal identification information from the slave handheld communication terminal cannot

be shortened when multiple handheld terminals are present. Consequently, Beach completely differs from the invention recited in Claim 22 in object, configuration, and advantage. Even assuming *arguendo* that Beach can be combined with well-known art of barcodes, wireless tags, images, etc, as identification information acquisition means, such a combination still differs from the invention recited in Claim 22 in configuration and advantages since Beach completely differs from the invention recited in Claim 22 as described above.

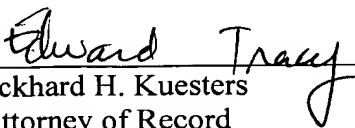
Further, it is respectfully submitted that neither McGregor nor Larsson teaches or suggests these features either. Accordingly, as none of the cited references teach or suggest "an acquisition device" as defined in new Claim 22, new Claim 22 is patentable over the cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that new Claims 23-26, 30, 33, and 36 also define acquisition devices that are not taught or suggested by any of the cited references. Accordingly, new Claims 23-26, 30, 33, and 36 (and Claims 27-29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, and 38 dependent therefrom) are also patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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